



Emmbrook Infant School

Emmbrook Road, Wokingham, RG41 1JR

<http://emmbrookinfauntschool.co.uk>

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Chair's message

It is hard to believe the end of another academic year is upon us again and it certainly has been another busy but exciting year.

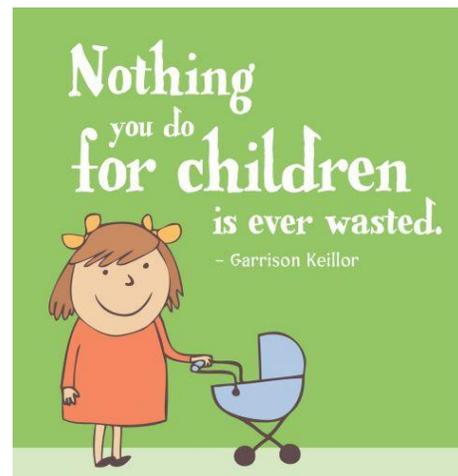
As a parent, becoming a governor for the school has given me a unique privilege of being able to see what excellent work goes on behind the scenes whilst also being able to see directly the impact Emmbrook Infant School has had on the children who attend it.

I am proud of the dedication and commitment of our teachers and support staff and have enjoyed watching how events like Sports Day or the children's Christmas Dinner always run like clockwork with everyone playing their part to keep it running smoothly. The school wouldn't operate without such dedicated staff and I would like to thank each one of them for this. The amazing results we see is an excellent demonstration of their commitment to raising standards in our school.

I would like to thank the PTA for the support they give to the school. I have seen how much organisation goes in to events to raise money for those things the budgets just can't buy. They work very hard to make these events a success.

I am extremely fortunate to be able to work with such a dedicated Governing Body who are able to give up their personal time to work tirelessly for the school. They make regular visits to watch assemblies, take part in lessons, attend meetings and regularly meet with teachers to keep in touch with what is going on with teaching and learning.

TEAM; Together Everyone Achieves More



Upcoming Events

July 20

End of Summer term

September 7

New school year begins

September 28

Full Governing Body meets

Dog and Duck parking

Great news! The new owners of the DnD pub now allow parking during drop off and pick up. Please always park politely and park elsewhere during busy times (like sunny Friday afternoons when the pub will need the car park for customers) as well as on delivery days (currently Wed pm).

The pub is hoping to open for coffee from 9am weekday mornings and is waiting on WBC for a decision. 'Like' the DnD Facebook page for updates and pop in for Sunday lunch!

<http://bit.ly/29tR9Br>

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We are saying goodbye to some governor colleagues this year. Lewis Gent, Michelle Hayward and Jo Wastell have all worked tirelessly during their time as governors. I have personally enjoyed working with them and I would like to thank them for their hard work, dedication and commitment to being a governor for our school and I wish them well for the future.

Enjoy the long summer break and I look forward to seeing you in September.

You can always contact me, Ben Clarke, Chair of Governors, by emailing admin@emmbrook-inf.wokingham.sch.uk or via the school office.



The Pupil Premium Grant -registering could raise school money

Since the introduction of School Meals for all of our children, we have seen a huge reduction in funding, which would have come with children from disadvantaged circumstances. In case parents are unaware, The Pupil Premium Grant (PPG) needs to be **applied for** and has significant funding benefits to your child and the school.

Children who would be eligible for Free School Meals can qualify for the PPG which can be used to ensure your child reaches their full potential. This could be through support like extra tuition or a targeted teaching assistant and additional teaching staff. Pupils in receipt of the PPG will also receive funding to attend after-school clubs, have access to some free uniform and will not be expected to pay for class trips. Registering also enables your child to receive free school meals up until year 6.

This additional money, up to £1,320 per annum, is available from central government for every child whose parent is receiving one of the welfare benefits listed on the click through below. This funding lasts for 6 years, regardless of how long you may receive a benefit for.

It is therefore important to sign up for free school meals, even if your child is in reception, year 1 or year 2, so that your child's school receives as much funding as possible. Do contact the school if you think you may be eligible. All information is dealt with in the strictest of confidence.

Wokingham Borough Council encourages parents to sign up at <http://bit.ly/29qnY1V>

Partnership Work

Part of being a governor is to look at the strategic future of the school. We had the biggest decision to make that a governing body can make during the Spring Term when the Junior School approached us with the possibility of amalgamating the two schools following the resignation of Mrs Gurney. This sort of discussion has taken place before and usually happens when one Head Teacher leaves one of the schools.

This was an exciting time with being able to look at this possibility to bring the schools together and we had a lot of work to do to ensure the feasibility of this. Due to the way schools are currently funded the amalgamation idea was set aside as it would have meant the school once amalgamated would have lost a lot of funding and this would have had a direct negative effect on the children with teaching and learning. In two years' time there is likely to be a new national funding formula for schools, so there is a possibility amalgamation may be a feasible option in the future, should the opportunity arise.

We then took a look at alternatives like Academy status and an informal partnership. At that stage the informal partnership was preferred by both schools and a thorough investigation from both sides took place where both governing bodies debated amongst themselves as well as the two together. Funding a partnership is the same as keeping the schools separate but savings can potentially be made by sharing resources and staff.

Both schools concluded that amalgamation would have been the preferred choice had the funding been available to create one Primary School but a partnership would have been difficult to achieve with a shared Head Teacher, as both governing bodies had differing ideas about how to take this option forward.

The Junior School are now preparing to recruit a new Head Teacher for January with Mr Fenton being the Acting Head Teacher in the interim period. We would like to thank the Junior School staff and governors for their contributions during these discussions and it has been an honour as a governor and a parent to be able to discuss this important issue even though the outcome was to remain the same.

Committees @work

Leadership & Management: John Wood chair

Whilst the responsibility for operations of the school sit with the Head Teacher, the L&M committee provides the governance, support, check and balance to ensure that it is being effectively implemented. This committee maintains and reviews relevant policies and we keep an eye on staffing requirements. In regular reviews with the Head Teacher we monitor performance, discuss job satisfaction, motivation and address any requests for making the job easier or more rewarding. We also keep under review the performance of the teaching and support staff and, through the Head Teacher, we monitor the pay of the teaching staff. By their nature, our discussions are hugely confidential and so discretion is required at all times.

Communication, Behaviour and Safeguarding: Michelle Hayward chair

The protection of the students is our number one focus, and this year we have been focusing hard on introducing awareness, understanding and prevention with our teaching staff and governors around three delicate, yet hugely important areas: Child Sexual Exploitation, Female Genital Mutilation and Radicalism. It's about spotting signs and knowing how to tactfully address so that our children are protected. In addition, the CBS committee ensures that the school is equipped to address its responsibilities to students with special education needs, monitor that all children are treated fairly and without prejudice whilst supporting the school in their efforts to use web, Life Cloud and surveys to communicate and listen to parents. We are a diverse committee stretching from policy ownership to site Health and Safety, always with the interests of the students and staff in our mind.

Resources: Ben Clarke chair

The Resources Committee is responsible for budget monitoring, Site and Health and Safety. We are committed to making sure the school funds are spent in the right way as well as ensuring continued refurbishment and repairs of the school buildings and areas to ensure an outstanding teaching and learning environment. We are starting to let out our school hall to add extra needed income to the budget and this will help us to improve things like car park lighting to create a safe environment in the dark winter months.

Achievement: Lewis Gent chair

The Achievement committee, which comprises both staff and non-staff governors, has continued to monitor all aspects of performance across the school. This covers the progress of all children, teachers' continuous professional development and governor self-assessment. This year has been a particular challenge due to the government implementation of a change of how children are tracked and assessed. The senior management team have worked hard to identify the most appropriate tools for monitoring pupil progress throughout the forthcoming years. The results of

this year's SATS will be the foundation of the assessment tool. The committee has continued to review those school policies appropriate to Achievement.



In other, more interesting news...

Enhancing the curriculum

The school is always looking for ways to enrich and diversify the curriculum and learning for the children.

This year we have invested over £6,000 in multiple workshops and experiences which the children have thoroughly enjoyed:

The Happy Puzzle Company	Christingle workshops
A Life Workshop	Rabbi Zvi
Buttercup the Cow and Clover the Goat	Perform drama- Gunpowder Plot workshop
Reading FC workshop	Mr Wizard
Mother Goose pantomime	Feathers and Fur
Samuel Pepys	Wild Science Reptile Show
Handa's Hen-The Little Angel Theatre Company	Emperor's New Clothes- Hand to Mouth Theatre Co.
EarthSong Music Workshop	Artist in residence
Balloon Race & Commemorative Coins (Queen's 90 th)	Road to Rio Dance Workshop

HI Unit Update

You may have seen the proposal from the Local Authority to close the Hearing Impairment Unit which is hosted at Emmbrook Infant School. As a governing body, we value this unique service in our school and we fully support keeping this unit open for our hearing impaired children. We have had some immediate challenges with staff for September to deal with and I am pleased to say that we will have a Teacher of the Deaf who starts in September. We are hopeful this unit can remain open for as long as possible and we will continue to discuss this with the LA.

Introducing Fran Cooke

We are thrilled to have secured the services of Fran Cooke. Here, in her own words:

I am the newest member of the governing body at EIS, but I probably have the longest history as I worked at the school as the School Business Manager from 1988 to 2009. I have also been a school governor in Wokingham schools since 1988 when I started as a governor of EJS, then moved on as my children did to spend seven years as a governor at The Emmbrook School. Only then did I return to become a governor at the Infant School where I continued until I retired in 2009.

Wokingham Borough Council asked me to help at schools in the borough who needed support and so I have helped in the intervening years in two schools near the Reading border who have both moved rapidly from having difficulties to becoming good with outstanding characteristics.

I hope that the years I spent working with the Governor Services Team delivering training across Berkshire and Wokingham schools, and working with individual school governing bodies to assess effective practice will be of use to Emmbrook Infant governors.

School Trips!

It's not all poring over policies and attending meetings! Governors are fortunate enough to be invited to accompany pupils and staff on school trips. This lets pupils, staff and governors get to know each other better and is also a great way for us to see EIS's Core Values and Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural ethos in action, which is sometimes harder to achieve on shorter visits.

Year 2 attended Addington School's production of "Oliver" recently. For those of you unfamiliar with Addington, it is a Special School for children aged 3-19 with learning difficulties and associated disabilities. It has Music Specialist status, and its pupils put on a tremendous performance which was applauded wholeheartedly by our Year 2. This was a great opportunity for our children to explore their community and experience a different environment and they conducted themselves beautifully, displaying curiosity, respect and appreciation.

Curiosity and a thirst for knowledge were also apparent on Year 2's trip to Winchester Science Museum and Planetarium. Museum staff were perhaps not quite prepared for how much Year 2 already knew about space! This topic really seems to have inspired the children and the interactive science experiments promoted lots of independent learning.

Well done Year 2, what great ambassadors for your school you are, you should all be very proud of yourselves.

School Improvement Visit Spring & Summer 2016

Mr Mathieson, our Wokingham School Improvement Officer, conducted his termly monitoring visit to school in April. Alongside Mrs Gillard and Mrs Wright, he carried out a scrutiny of the children's work looking for both progress over time and attainment. He concluded that our pupils are offered a rich curriculum with practical learning opportunities and that pupil progress is outstanding. As a result, he gave us an **Outstanding** school judgement. He then returned at the end of the summer term to analyse the school results in the Year 2 SATs, Year 1 Phonics and EYFS Good Level of Development.

Assessment

Our Year 2 pupils have just finished their end of key stage national tests. This was the first year of a new set of more challenging tests as part of the redesigned 2014 curriculum. We felt that the reading tests were certainly more challenging and required quite a sophisticated level of inference. The spelling test was also very difficult and it will become a school priority for next year. Now that levels have gone, the children's raw scores are converted into scaled score with 100 being the expected level.

End of Year Assessments

We are very pleased with the results we have achieved in Year 2 this year given the harder curriculum and testing system. We are particularly pleased with the outcomes for our PPG children and our gap has once again narrowed.

Year 2	Expected Standard	Greater Depth Standard
Reading	95%	43%
Writing	82%	10%
Maths	98%	22%
Reading, writing & maths	82%	

We are very pleased with the results from the Phonics Screening in Year 1 with **92%** passing. 100% of Year 2s who had to sit the test also passed.

Early Years Foundation Stage data is very good and all the Cygnets have made very good progress.

Overall Good Level of Development (GLD)	73%
Reading Early Learning Goal (ELG)	90%
Writing Early Learning Goal	80%
Maths Early Learning Goal	92%

As a result, we have again been graded as **Outstanding** by the Local Authority following the termly visit from our School Improvement Officer. Well done and thank you to all the staff who provide such an excellent education for the children at Emmbrook Infant School.

Governor Training – keeping our skills up

Governors need to be well equipped to perform their duties. We have access to an online training portal offering courses which underpin the various aspects of governing. Specifically, we ask our teaching staff to become knowledgeable in the priority areas of Prevent, CSE and FGM; so the non-staff Governors felt that we should do the same. Here is our progress:

	Prevent	CSE	FGM
Ben Clarke	X	X	X
Paul Hunsdon	X	X	
Tony Charters	X	X	X
Lewis Gent	X	X	X
Darrell Frost	X	X	X
Michelle Hayward	X	X	
John Wood			
Jo Wastell	X	X	
Sarah Nimmey	X	X	X
Fran Cooke			



Renting the school hall

During this year, we have been trying to find incremental ways to build school funds. One successful way has been to rent the school hall out to Slimming World for one night each week. Of course, we take great care to keep classrooms and offices locked during events.

If you are a part of a club or need a space to rent for a private party, then do think of the school for your venue. Just talk to the school office to see if we can help make your event special, whilst supporting the school.

Next Newsletter – expect to see it after Christmas, when we’ve had a chance to welcome our new intake and settle in. Meanwhile, we hope that all children, staff, parents and carers have a lovely Summer break and we wish all children leaving Emmbrook Infant School the very best in their onward education.



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